

# *California Prison Health Care Receivership Corp.*

From: Robert Sillen, Receiver  
To: San Quentin Staff and Inmates  
Re: San Quentin Project Begins July 5 2006

I am delighted to announce today's kickoff of the Receiver's effort to improve medical care at San Quentin, as a first step in restructuring and developing a constitutionally adequate medical care delivery system in all California prisons.

## ***PUTTING SAN QUENTIN UNDER A MICROSCOPE*** **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

### **Statement of Purpose: Goals**

- Create a clinical environment at San Quentin where health care professionals can provide quality medical care to inmate patients. Provide additional, appropriate clinical space.
- Improve working conditions for health care and custody staff.
- Ensure a clean environment for medical care delivery.
- Improve operating systems and provide adequate resources for supplies, staff, and equipment, including appropriate staffing and salary levels.
- Address appropriate screening and placement of inmates in need of medical services.
- Improve access to and operation of specialty and ancillary services.
- Address custody-health care interface issues that impinge upon each group's ability to support and deliver timely, quality medical care.
- Upon completion of the San Quentin project, the Receiver will be better equipped to develop statewide approaches to restructuring and improving prison medical care.

### **Rationale:**

#### ***Why San Quentin?***

San Quentin is among the most famous -- and infamous -- of American prisons. The home of California's death row, it faces many challenges, including overcrowding, old

facilities, a wide variety of inmate classifications, ages and illnesses, and a reception center. As significant, tangible and measurable improvements to medical care delivery are accomplished there, similar efforts can be applied and results obtained elsewhere in the California prison system. San Quentin is the ideal laboratory to test improvements in prison medical care. If we can do it there, we can do it anywhere.

### **Description**

- The project will take place over a 90 day period, starting July 5 2006.
- The Receiver will install a team on-site to direct and support change. The project leader is John Hagar, Chief of Staff. The on-site CPR staff includes Joe McGrath, Director of Custody Support Services; Terry Hill, M.D. Chief Medical Officer; Vince Marengo, Director of Facilities; Lara Hasik, Projects Director; Kathy Page Correctional Nursing Expert; and Jane Robinson, Regional Nursing Director, CHCSD.
- San Quentin health care and custody leadership will help design and implement plans.
- Health care and custody staff will participate fully.
- Inmate patients to provide input through an initial round of interviews conducted by the Receiver's staff.
- Day to day operational chain of command remains in place. Peter Farber-Szekrenyi will continue to manage the daily operations of the Health Care Services Division related to San Quentin, and coordinate with the Receiver's office.

### **What to Expect**

- Relief: A difference that both staff and patients can feel and see.
- SQ will show improvements in areas critical to the provision of quality medical care in the following realms: supplies, equipment, staffing, salaries, cleanliness, space and access to specialty and other off-site care.
- A quantum leap forward: Attention to neglected, under-funded, areas that will create improved systems for the future.

### **What Not to Expect**

- This project is limited to improving medical care. We are not going to "fix" San Quentin. The institution is too troubled, too decrepit and too overcrowded. There is only so much we can do in a short period of time. CPR's team will not oversee, during the course of this project, a comprehensive, complete turnaround of the entire facility. The effort to revamp prison medical care won't stop with this project, however. Under the receivership there will be continued improvements at SQ as well as throughout the entire CA prison system.